

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0494

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD EAIR JA CH
SUBJ: JAPAN-PRC AVIATION TALKS

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JAPANESE AND PRC CIVIL AVIATION
OFFICIALS ON INCREASED FLIGHTS, NEW ROUTES AND ADDED
FACILITIES RECESSED FEBRUARY 17 AFTER AGREEMENT COULD NOT
BE REACHED ON FUTURE FLIGHT REQUENCIES ON THE TOKYO-
PEKING ROUTE.

2. JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER WHO PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS
SAID THAT THE PRC NEGOTIATING TEAM TOOK A VERY
"POSITIVE AND INSISTENT" LINE ON THE FUTURE OF TOURISM
IN CHINA. THE CHINESE OPENED DISCUSSIONS WITH A
PROJECTION OF 40,000 JAPANESE TOURISTS IN THZ COMING YEAR.
THEY INCREASED THIS TO 50,000 ("MANY MORE FRIENDS,
INCLUDING CANADIANS, AMERICANS AND OVERSEAS CHINESE")
WHEN THE JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS SAID THAT EVEN 40,000
WOULD NOT PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE LOAD FACTOR. PRC AUTHORITIES WERE
PLANNING TO OPEN UP MORE CITIES AND WERE ACTIVELY WORKING
TO INCREASE ACCOMMODATIONS OVER ALL OF CHINA. THIS WAS NATIONAL
POLICY DETERMINED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND THE JAPANESE
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COULD BE ASSURED THAT IT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

3. THE JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS, HOWEVER, POINTED TO LOW
LOAD FACTORS WHEN THE PEKING-TOKYO ROUTE WAS FIRST OPENED AND
FAILED TO SEE AN EXPANSION ADEQUATE TO FILL THE PROJECTED
NUMBER OF FLIGHTS.

4. THE FINAL NEGOTIATING SESSION BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 16
LASTED UNTIL 6 O'CLOCK THE FOLLOWING MORNING AT WHICH TIME
THE JAPANESE DELEGATION DEPARTED. DISCUSSIONS WILL
APPARENTLY BE REOPENED SHORTLY BETWEEN THE JAPANESE EMBASSY
AND THE CAAC ON THE LAST CHINESE PROPOSAL TO ADD ONE
FLIGHT IN EACH DIRECTION IN APRIL AND ANOTHER IN NOVEMBER.
ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON EXPANDING JAL'S
ACTIVITIES IN CHINA AND ENSURING THAT ALL THE PASSENGERS
WERE NOT STEERED TO CAAC BY THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE AND
INVOLVED "FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATIONS," THE TWO SIDES WERE
NOT ABLE TO AGREE ON A NEW ROUTE BY JAL OVER THE KARAKORAMS
TO TEHRAN. AFFINAL AGREEMENT ON ALL THE POINTS AT ISSUE WAS
SUSPENDED UNTIL THE FLIGHT FREQUENCIES ISSUE IS RESOLVED.
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